IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information playback apparatus comprising:

a first acquisition unit configured to acquire contents from an information storage medium;

a second acquisition unit configured to acquire expansion information from at least one of the information storage medium and an external apparatus via a communication line;

a storage unit configured to store the expansion information acquired by the second acquisition unit in accordance with a type of the expansion information; and

a playback unit configured to play back the contents acquired by the first acquisition unit, and to play back the expansion information stored in the storage unit in synchronism with playback of the contents,

wherein each of segmented memory spaces of the storage unit stores and outputs a plurality of pieces of segmented expansion information which form a first type of expansion information when the first type of expansion information is to be stored, and

the segmented memory spaces of the storage unit are integrated to store and output a second type of expansion information when the second type of expansion information is to be stored.

Claims 2-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An information playback method comprising:

acquiring expansion information from at least one of an information storage medium and an external apparatus via a communication line;

storing, in a storage unit, the expansion information in accordance with a type of information; and

playing back the contents acquired from the information storage medium, and playing back the expansion information stored in the storage unit in synchronism with playback of the contents,

wherein each of segmented memory spaces of the storage unit stores and outputs a plurality of pieces of segmented expansion information which form a first type of expansion information when the first type of expansion information is to be stored, and

the segmented memory spaces of the storage unit are integrated to store and output a second type of expansion information when the second type of expansion information is to be stored.

Claims 8-13 (Canceled).